

# Los Angeles County DCFS Adoptions Division

## Post Adoption Services (PAS)

### Newsletter

SUMMER 2006

ISSUE #6

#### POST ADOPTION SERVICES MISSION STATEMENT

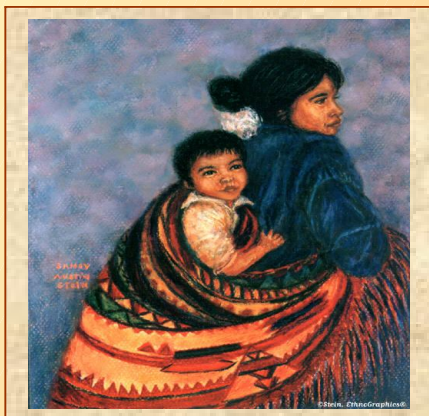
Post Adoption Services is committed to providing support and resources to adoptive parents, adoptees, and birth families as they face the lifelong issues of adoption.

#### *Many thanks!*

- Post Adoption Services would like to thank the thousands of adoptive parents who returned the surveys that we mailed out in December 2005. Your responses have given us valuable information regarding the needs of adoptive families. The information that you provided will assist us in improving the services we provide to the adoptive families we serve.

#### *Did you know...?*

- If you're an adoptee and you believe that you may be eligible for membership in one of the Native American tribes you may contact Post Adoption Services for assistance in this matter. This service may be requested by calling the PAS duty line at (800) 735-4984.



#### *A Story about how PAS has helped...*

Recently an adoptee contacted Post Adoption Services requesting background information about his birth parents. After researching the case file, the PAS worker informed the adoptee that he might be eligible for membership in the tribe to which his birth mother was affiliated. The adoptee was adopted prior to the 1978 enactment of the Indian Child Welfare Act, which established tribal authority over the adoption of all Native American children who are members of, or are eligible for membership in, one of the Native American tribes. Since we did not have prior written permission from his birth mother to disclose any information to him regarding her identity, he was not able to apply for tribal membership himself. He asked the PAS worker to assist him in submitting a request for enrollment to the tribe. The PAS worker submitted the application for enrollment and all the documents required on behalf of the adoptee. After waiting several months, the CSW received a letter from the tribe indicating that the adoptee's application for tribal membership had been accepted. The adoptee was elated. He also found out that his children are eligible for tribal membership.

Although the adoptee had always had an exceptionally close and positive relationship with his adoptive parents and siblings, he had always felt a longing to find out whether he had any birth siblings. The adoptee was adopted at a very young age and had no memories of his birth family. When he read the non-identifying information about his birth parents' background, he found out that he had several birth siblings. He became determined to try to find his birth siblings. Since the adoptee was stationed in the Middle East, he asked his wife to contact the tribe and ask them for information about the tribe's culture, history, traditions, and practices.

After telling the person from the tribe her husband's adoption story, the person said she believed she knew a man who lived on the reservation who might be her husband's brother. She contacted the brother who then called the adoptee's wife. After sharing their information, the brother began to cry. He said he has thought about his baby brother every day for the past 40 years. He and his siblings prayed together many times that some day they would meet their baby brother again. Then the adoptee's sister called the adoptee's wife. She was overcome with emotion. She said she was the oldest sibling, and she remembers taking care of her brother when he was a baby. She never got over the separation.

The sister then told the wife that every summer all the siblings spend the week together on the reservation and participate in the reservation's annual summer Pow-Wow. They invited their baby brother to attend. The adoptee has been given permission to leave his overseas assignment so that he can attend the Pow-Wow. The story of the reunion is going to be published in the tribal newspaper. The siblings and the wife talk on the phone on a regular basis and are anxiously looking forward to meeting each other in person this summer.

### **NEWS FLASH**

The 32nd annual conference of the North American Council on Adoptable Children (NACAC) will be held at the Long Beach Convention Center from July 27-29. The Los Angeles County Department of Children and Family Services will pay the entire cost of the \$255 registration fee for the first 200 adoptive and foster parents who submit their registration forms to the Department. The funds are available on a first-come first-serve basis so you should register quickly. The registration forms are being sent out through the mail.

**PAS DUTY LINE:  
1-800-735-4984**

# **REMINDER**

Just a reminder, PAS offers several monthly support groups for adoptive parents throughout Los Angeles County. These support groups are facilitated by experienced social workers and are comprised of adoptive parents just like you. We look forward to seeing you there. For more details about the current monthly adoptive parents' support groups, please call the PAS duty line @ (800) 735-4984. We will be happy to give you directions, information, and/or place you on a mailing list for the support group in your area.

**We have support groups that meet:**

- The third Tuesday of every month at 7:00 p.m. in **Los Angeles**.
- The third Tuesday of every month at 10:00 a.m. in **Lancaster**.
- The third Wednesday of every month at 7:00 p.m. in **Pasadena**.
- The second Wednesday of the month at 9:00 a.m. in the **San Fernando Valley**.
- The second Wednesday of every month at 6:00 p.m. in **San Pedro**.
- The first Thursday of every month at 10:00 a.m. in **Monterey Park** (please note this is a Spanish-speaking only group).

### **Post Adoption Services Team**

**ARA's:** Esther Herrera Barry Ginsberg

#### **SCSW's:**

Selena McCurdy  
Sonia Elmasry

Lorna Fibus  
Monica Biernet

#### **CSW's:**

Vergel De La Cruz  
Margaret Lipton  
Denise Lytle  
Clare Naughton  
Jennifer Nelson  
Angelica Petitt  
Adam Tunick

Myrna De La Cruz  
Grace Hardgrove  
Jennifer Henderson  
Kay Ingram  
Grace Kim  
Barbara McDermott  
G.W. Moore  
Rita Nwabuzoh

#### **Support staff:**

Don Offor

Marie Mosley